

World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification.

S. 473

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 473, a bill to provide for drone security.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 524, a bill to eliminate disparity in sentencing for cocaine offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 532

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 532, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 547

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 547, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 548

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 548, a bill to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, and for other purposes.

S. 558

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 558, a bill to codify Executive Order 13950 (relating to combatting race and sex stereotyping), and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COTTON, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 596. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, today I am introducing the Military Spouse Hiring Act with my colleagues Senators BOOZMAN, HASSAN, ROUNDS, and

17 of our colleagues. Enacting this bill would improve financial stability for Blue Star families across the country.

The families of America's servicemembers make sacrifices that often go unrecognized. Among them is packing up and moving frequently, with military spouses regularly having to leave stable employment to move to a new area and start over. This is compounded by the complex system of State licensing and certification requirements, which can prevent these spouses from taking jobs that utilize their expertise and experience. Because of this, military spouses have unemployment rates substantially higher than the national average, and they are often underemployed when they do have jobs. Adding to the financial struggles caused by frequent periods of unemployment and underemployment, the rising cost of childcare puts a substantial burden on many military families.

The Military Spouse Hiring Act would help these families by making military spouses an eligible population for the work opportunity tax credit. This tax credit has proven effective in improving employment prospects for other groups. Extending it to military spouses would help them find employment more easily after moving to new areas.

I hope my colleagues will support this bill to help families who have made the greatest sacrifice for our Nation.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 597. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today, along with my colleague Senator BROWN, to introduce the Social Security Fairness Act. The bipartisan bill would repeal two Social Security provisions that unfairly penalize many public servants in Maine and in other States.

Social Security is the foundation of retirement income for most Americans. This crucial program has made the difference between poverty and a comfortable retirement for millions of seniors. Yet, some teachers, firefighters, police officers, and other public servants often see their earned Social Security benefits unfairly reduced by two Social Security provisions: the windfall elimination provision and the Government pension offset.

The Windfall elimination provision or W-E-P affects public servants who receive a pension from a job where they did not pay into Social Security but who also worked long enough in another job to qualify for Social Security benefits. Due to the WEP, their Social Security benefits are calculated using a different formula, which can reduce their monthly benefits. For workers who become eligible for benefits in 2023, the WEP reduction can be up to \$557.50 per month, subject to other adjustments.

The Government Pension Offset GPO affects public servants who receive a pension from a job where they did not pay into Social Security and are also eligible to receive a Social Security spousal or widow(er)'s benefit. However, the GPO reduces Social Security spousal or widow(er)'s benefits by an amount equal to two-thirds of the non-covered pension.

According to the Social Security Administration, in December 2022, more than 2 million people, including nearly 20,500 people in Maine, had their Social Security benefits reduced by the WEP. Similarly, nearly 735,000 people were affected by the GPO in December 2022, including more than 8,100 people in Maine. While the effects of the WEP and GPO are most acute in certain States, including Maine, data from the Social Security Administration indicate that these provisions affect public servants in all 50 States.

Many Maine teachers have spoken with me about how the WEP and GPO affect their retirement security. I recently heard from a special education teacher in Kennebec who has spent more than 40 years teaching and also held a second job in the private sector to help support her family after becoming a single parent. Due to the WEP, she is concerned about her financial security once she retires. A retiree in Mount Desert also reached out to me recently to share his story. He wants to make sure his wife, who is a public servant, will be taken care of after he is gone. Due to the GPO, he is concerned that any Social Security widow's benefit his wife receives will be substantially reduced.

The bill we are introducing today, the Social Security Fairness Act, would repeal both the WEP and the GPO for Social Security benefits payable after December 2023. This means current Social Security beneficiaries would have their benefits recalculated without applying the WEP and GPO. Teachers, firefighters, police officers, and other public servants currently in the workforce would no longer have to worry about having their Social Security benefits unfairly reduced in the future. Those who are considering careers in public service would no longer have to weigh the potential negative effects of this choice on their future retirement security.

Our dedicated public servants, such as our teachers who help prepare our

children for future success and our police officers who help keep our communities safe, should receive the full Social Security benefits they have earned. It is time for us to take action to address the WEP and the GPO. I urge my colleagues to support the Social Security Fairness Act.

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 86—COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE TEXAS RANGER DIVISION OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE OLDEST STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN NORTH AMERICA, AND HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN, PAST AND PRESENT, OF THE TEXAS RANGERS

Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 86

Whereas the Texas Ranger Division of the Texas Department of Public Safety was established in 1823 and will commemorate its 200th anniversary in 2023;

Whereas the Texas Rangers are the oldest law enforcement organization on the North American continent with statewide jurisdiction;

Whereas the Texas Rangers have played an influential, valiant, and honorable role from the early years of Texas to the present day;

Whereas, through the centuries, the Texas Rangers have served as—

(1) a citizen militia, protecting ranches, farms, and settlements against hostile raids;

(2) frontier peace officers, protecting against outlaws and banditry;

(3) law enforcement to new towns and settlements on burgeoning railroad routes and cattle trails; and

(4) State police, handling lawlessness in oil boomtowns, violations of Prohibition, and gangsters;

Whereas, in 1935, the Texas Rangers were incorporated into one of the first departments of public safety in the United States;

Whereas the Texas Rangers are internationally respected for—

(1) conducting major criminal investigations;

(2) suppressing organized crime;

(3) performing border reconnaissance;

(4) expertise with respect to special weapons and tactics;

(5) serving as bomb squads;

(6) special rapid response capabilities;

(7) crisis negotiation capabilities;

(8) joint intelligence center management; and

(9) investigating unsolved crimes;

Whereas the pioneering initiatives of the Texas Rangers, such as the Interdiction for the Protection of Children program, have resulted in invitations from law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and internationally, from Australia to Great Britain, to help initiate similar law enforcement initiatives;

Whereas the Texas Rangers have partnered with Federal agencies on numerous public safety and relief initiatives, such as in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, and with the Federal Bureau of Investigation on numerous occasions, including the pursuit of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow in 1934;

Whereas the Texas Rangers have captured the imagination of the public and have become icons of United States popular culture;

Whereas songs, books, and novels have been written about the Texas Rangers since the 1840s;

Whereas the Texas Rangers are the largest and oldest multimedia “franchise” of the United States, dating back to the earliest years of film, radio, and television; and

Whereas the Texas Rangers have been featured in more than 225 movies and 7 television series: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 200th anniversary of the Texas Rangers;

(2) applauds the significant achievements of the Texas Rangers;

(3) commends the thousands of men and women who have served in both field and command ranks of the Texas Rangers, both before and after Texas statehood, including the current 234 full-time employees consisting of 166 commissioned Texas Rangers and 68 support personnel;

(4) remembers the 149 Texas Rangers who valiantly lost their lives in the performance of their duties; and

(5) recognizes the critical role the Texas Rangers have played throughout the history of Texas, beginning with Stephen F. Austin, the “Father of Texas”, who organized the Texas Rangers for the common defense over the range of the Texas Republic.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 87—RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DEBT AS A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 87

Whereas, in January 2023, the total public debt outstanding was more than \$31,000,000,000,000, resulting in a total interest expense of more than \$717,611,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

Whereas, in January 2023, the total public debt as a percentage of gross domestic product was about 121 percent;

Whereas, in January 2023, the debt owed per citizen was \$94,240 and \$246,864 per taxpayer;

Whereas the last Federal budget surplus occurred in 2001;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2022, Federal tax receipts totaled \$4,896,000,000,000, but Federal outlays totaled \$6,272,000,000,000, leaving the Federal Government with a 1-year deficit of \$1,376,000,000,000;

Whereas the Senate failed to pass a balanced budget for fiscal year 2022 and failed to restore regular order to the legislative process by not allowing Senators to offer and debate amendments;

Whereas the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees project that the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2028;

Whereas the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees project that the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2034;

Whereas improvements in the business climate in populous countries, and aging populations around the world, will likely contribute to higher global interest rates;

Whereas more than \$7,270,000,000,000 of Federal debt is owned by individuals not located in the United States, including more than

\$870,000,000,000 of which is owned by individuals in China;

Whereas China and the European Union are developing alternative payment systems to weaken the dominant position of the United States dollar as a reserve currency;

Whereas rapidly increasing interest rates would squeeze all policy priorities of the United States, including defense policy and foreign policy priorities;

Whereas, on April 12, 2018, former Secretary of Defense James Mattis warned that “any Nation that can’t keep its fiscal house in order eventually cannot maintain its military power”;

Whereas, on March 6, 2018, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats warned: “Our continued plunge into debt is unsustainable and represents a dire future threat to our economy and to our national security”;

Whereas, on November 15, 2017, former Secretaries of Defense Leon Panetta, Ash Carter, and Chuck Hagel warned: “Increase in the debt will, in the absence of a comprehensive budget that addresses both entitlements and revenues, force even deeper reductions in our national security capabilities”;

Whereas, on September 22, 2011, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen warned: “I believe the single, biggest threat to our national security is debt”; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the national debt is a threat to the national security of the United States;

(2) realizes that deficits are unsustainable, irresponsible, and dangerous;

(3) commits to restoring regular order in the appropriations process; and

(4) commits to preventing the looming fiscal crisis faced by the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 88—ESTABLISHING APPROPRIATE THRESHOLDS FOR CERTAIN BUDGET POINTS OF ORDER IN THE SENATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BRAUN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

S. RES. 88

*Resolved*,

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the “Make Rules Matter Resolution”.

##### SEC. 2. THRESHOLDS FOR BUDGET POINTS OF ORDER.

(a) THRESHOLD FOR POINT OF ORDER AGAINST EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “emergency designation point of order” means a point of order raised under—

(A) section 314(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 645(e));

(B) section 4(g)(3) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)(3)); or

(C) section 4001(a) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022.

(2) WAIVER.—In the Senate, an emergency designation point of order may be waived or suspended only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(3) APPEAL.—In the Senate, an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on an emergency designation point of order.

(b) THRESHOLD FOR LARGE BUDGET IMPACT FOR CERTAIN CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974 POINTS OF ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A point of order described in paragraph (3) may be waived or suspended